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VOICE OF AUTHORITY — Harold Weisberg, of Frederick, Maryland, is recognized as the leading authority on the John F. Kennedy assassination. A meticulous researcher, he is the author of eight books and his findings make the official Warren Commission's report implausible. See an exclusive interview with Weisberg on page ten.

From Politics to Poultry—From Assignations to Assassinations,

Harold Weisberg—The Undisputed Authority On Assassination Facts, Not Fables

Editor's note: The following interview by Jim Willis is not meant to sensationalize or dramatize the story of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Mr. Willis was merely provided with a rather unique opportunity to speak with an extremely interesting individual who has done an incredible amount of investigative work on a significant happening in America's history. We are pleased that Harold Weisberg has offered to share his findings with us.

By Jim Willis

Harold Weisberg is comfortably seated in a black vinyl recliner with his feet propped up — a necessity due to a circulatory problem. His home in Frederick, Maryland is enhanced by a stone fireplace, large windows, and an abundance of green plants. An exercise "bicycle" sits in the corner, a wire basket on the handlebars overflowing with a tape recorder and cassette tapes.

The sounds of typing, and the racket of a duplicating machine project from the small office off the living area, where his wife, Lillian works to the strains of an opera.

For all intents and purposes, the atmosphere is what one would expect of a typical, 66 year-old, childless couple. However, Harold and Lillian depart from the typical by leaps and bounds.

Weisberg is hailed as the world's most precise authority on the John F. Kennedy Assassination, and at least, one of the foremost researchers into the similar tragic endings of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Some may brand him a fanatic or a crusader, of which he is neither by his own admission. What he is, is an extremely zealous investigator whose super-human efforts at obtaining previously secret documents, and cataloging of such, have earned him a world-wide reputation of being the only un-refuted voice of authority.

Above all, Weisberg is not an assassination theorist. Nothing he does borders on sensationalism or commercialization. He's never been guilty of the corner-cutting work done by his competitors, who thrill their American readership with stories of who killed John Kennedy and why. Weisberg and his vocation are probably even more widely ignored than recognized. He's relatively happy with that outcome. It merely enforces his credibility.

The author of eight books, most of them self-published, he has fought insurmountable odds. Abandoned by his original literary agent who, in effect, warned him against bucking "official" accounts of the JFK assassination, he has progressed to the million-seller category of authors.

His books are painstakingly typed, proof-read, and indexed by his wife. Other than the actual mechanical printing process, every other facet of the publishing procedure is done at his home.

His work is of the highest caliber, and his home overflows with the hundreds of thousands of documents required by his research. Many of the documents were obtained through litigation in which he has challenged those pillars of American intelligence operations, the FBI and the CIA. Weisberg doesn't believe that just because he's shaking those pillars that the entire structure will come crashing down around his ears.

Although harrassed by the intelligence agencies, it has only succeeded in tempering his steel-like fortitude. Weisberg has obtained a majority of his archives, which will be donated to the University of Wisconsin, through lawsuits filed under the Freedom of Information Act — first in principle, before its passage, and later, after its enactment.

Weisberg, like many journalists, progressed through the ranks as a newspaper and magazine writer, and later went on to become a Senate investigator, and an intelligence and political analyst for the Office of Strategic Service, OSS, the forerunner of the CIA.

He met his wife while both were employees of the Senate in 1936. His earlier specialties included cartels and economic and political warfare. During the early days of World War II, his personal investigations and writings were widely credited with laying the foundation for the taking over of enemy property and foreign funds controls. His work was of value to the Justice and Treasury Departments, which used the proofs he developed in legal and other actions against Nazis and Nazi fronts. He has been consulted by Congressional committees, including the War Preparedness Committee headed by then Senator Harry Truman. Prior to U. S. entry into the war, he also delivered his data to agents of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare.

These earlier writings won the admiration and praise of correspondents, Congressmen, cabinet officers and the White House. Whatever he did, he did well. He attempted to ease out from under the lime-light and, as he puts it, "I became the soldier who solidifies his dream of living in peace and quiet out in the country and becoming a farmer. I became a farmer."

He certainly did. From his farm in Hyattstown, Maryland, he became the country's best chicken farmer, elected during the only "dressed" poultry competition ever held. The year was 1957 and Lillian, his wife, became the National Chicken Cooking Champion. In 1959 he was the National Barbeque King and the originator of marinate as a barbeque sauce. Rounding out his career as the paragon of poultry, Weisberg was named the Maryland Chicken Cooking Champion.

When low-flying military helicopters virtually destroyed his farm, it was liquidated. Weisberg's brief repast was interrupted by the JFK assassination. His keen eyes noted blatant discrepancies in the official account of the crime, and he dusted off his armor and prepared for battle.

Harold Weisberg will admit he hasn't won the "war" yet. But, if the total number of battles to his credit are any indication, one might be tempted to place a wager on the outcome.

The following interview was conducted last Saturday at the Weisberg home in Frederick. The interview, is, by necessity, long, and therefore will be continued in *The Republican*. On the other hand, it only scratches the surface of Harold Weisberg.

WILLIS — What is the nature of the FBI's intrusion into your personal life?

WEISBERG — That breaks down into two parts; what I can prove, and what I can't prove. Some of it is pretty wild. What I was telling you about was (the FBI) preparing four lawyers through a TV station with information that they call "public domain" material to tear me up in front of the audience of this TV show; that was in New York. I just learned by accident . . .

that they had an FBI informer call in on the show, to red-bait me. The moderator of the show was a decent, principled former report. He wouldn't have such a thing on his show, and I'm the one who protested . . . and I said I wouldn't think of such a thing — not being faced. It grew into a fairly dramatic confrontation, and as a result, the one platform appearance I had — had standing room only.

On another occasion, when entirely by accident, I learned of what we later came to know.

as the FBI's COINTELPRO operations . . .

WILLIS — Was it mail interception or . . .

WEISBERG — No, this had to do with an effort to use FBI informants to entice an FBI target, J. B. Stoner, a racist of the National States Rights Party . . . into racial violence. Stoner told me about this . . . when Stoner was in Baltimore he called me at Friendship Airport and told me. I was asked by the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, to go to the Internal Security Division for an entirely different reason . . . they had just indicted some American mercenaries who were in constant violation of the Neutrality Act. I had interviews with some.

In the course of this, I told the Internal Securities Division, "by the way you might want to know what some FBI informers reportedly are up to doing, because it could make a lot of trouble." Then I told them this story that Stoner

had told me.

Well, of course the Internal Security Division took this up with the FBI . . . that didn't suit the FBI at all. It (the FBI) then evolved and circulated a report in which it said it was obvious that I was conspiring with this notorious anti-Semite, Stoner, to besmirch the fair and clean name of the FBI. And these are only some of the indications of their intrusions into my private life and affairs.

WILLIS — In the introduction to your first published book, "Photographic Whitewash," you stated that due to a broken contract with a publisher, you sent manuscripts of your first complete book, "Oswald in New Orleans," to more than a hundred publishers all over the world . . . and that strange things happened to the manuscripts, etc. Could you elaborate on that?

WEISBERG — Oh, you mean the manuscript that was intercepted. That was of "Oswald in New Orleans, . . . that's the only reason "Photographic Whitewash" appeared first — because I had completed "Oswald" and put it in the

mail, as I remember on April 17, and I don't think I began "Photographic" until in May. In any event, it wasn't until after this manuscript disappeared . . . it disappeared once on the way to New York, and then on the way to Washington. It didn't surface in NY until I got a carbon copy there by other means . . . the carbon copy cost me Italian publication, and the copy that never reached Washington was supposed to go to a friend of mine on the Times of London.

Six weeks after it was mailed in NY, I received it where we then lived in Hyattstown, in a postoffice wrapper without a single edge, (referring to the written copy), or a piece of paper being marred in any way . . . and a little note saying "this package was found without its wrapper in the Washington Post Office, and we are sending it to an address which we find on the inside. Well, my name was on the inside, but the address they used was not on the inside.

WILLIS — On March 1, 1967, the then District Attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, made worldwide headlines by announcing the arrest there of Clay Shaw, a wealthy New Orleans businessman and real estate developer, and also the founder and director of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans. Garrison's office charged Shaw with conspiracy involving the assassination of JFK. What, if any, was your involvement with Garrison?

WEISBERG — I didn't really have an involvement with Garrison. I first went down there when he asked me to testify before the Grand Jury. I declined to go until after I had completed "Oswald in New Orleans," and had the manuscript in the mail . . . I think April 18 was when I went down there. I went down again in November and at that point I began to wonder what was going on. By February, when I was down there again, I was certain that these people were not preceding as I would, and the rifts between us began to widen. I maintained a good relationship with some of Garrison's staff . . . but as I made stronger and stronger, and less diplomatic efforts to restrain some of Garrison's greater excesses, I became more and more, persona non

gratia.

WILLIS — Do you personally believe that Garrison was on the right track up to a certain point?

WEISBERG — I think he was right in believing that there should have been an investigation in New Orleans and that there was criminal activity in New Orleans relevant to the John Kennedy assassination. I never had any interest in Shaw — never cast Shaw in the role in which Garrison did — never investigated Shaw. All of my work in New Orleans centered around Oswald. My interest was Oswald.

WILLIS — The day following the arrest of Clay Shaw, Garrison's office announced that Shaw was none other than Clem Bertrand, who according to attorney Dean Andrews' testimony before the Warren Commission, called him the

day after the assassination and asked him to go to Dallas to defend Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy. Do you believe that Clay Shaw was in fact, Clem Bertrand?

WEISBERG — Shaw may have very well have been Clem Bertrand.

WILLIS — It has been alleged that Clay Shaw was a practicing homosexual. Do you feel that if Clay Shaw was in fact "Clem Bertrand," that he merely used this alias in an attempt to cover up his homosexuality or do you believe that this alias was used in connection with intelligence work, with perhaps the CIA?

WEISBERG — I think that it's inevitable that Shaw had, at the very least, an innocent and proper intelligence connection . . . the CIA has since admitted that much. It would have been impossible for a man in his position . . . not to have been a source for both the FBI and the CIA. It would have been entirely proper, in the case of the FBI in particular, quite necessary. There were people like the Nicaraguan dictator who came to New Orleans. Now anyone of these visits could have been the occasion of an assassination. So I think that it was only right and proper that the FBI know about these things . . . we live in a world in which intelligence agencies are

necessary, and I see nothing wrong at all . . . with that part of Shaw's function. I have in "Oswald in New Orleans," by direct quotation, what appeared first in Europe in which it was alleged that Shaw did have other functions.

WILLIS — According to Garrison's investigation, in mid-September of 1963, Perry Raymond Russo, a 25 year old insurance salesman, testified that he attended a meeting at the apartment of his former roommate, David Ferrie. Russo claimed that (in addition to himself), Clay Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald, and David Ferrie, discussed assassinating President Kennedy in a "tri-angulation of cross-fire." Have any of the documents you've obtained, established any connection between Ferrie and Oswald?

WEISBERG — Yes and no. I think it's inevitable that they were in the Civil Air Patrol together.

WILLIS — Ferrie was a flight instructor, is that right?

WEISBERG — Ferrie then was officially not a member, but unofficially was active. He'd been involved in a number of problems and as a result, he had withdrawn from official leadership. However, he was a participant.

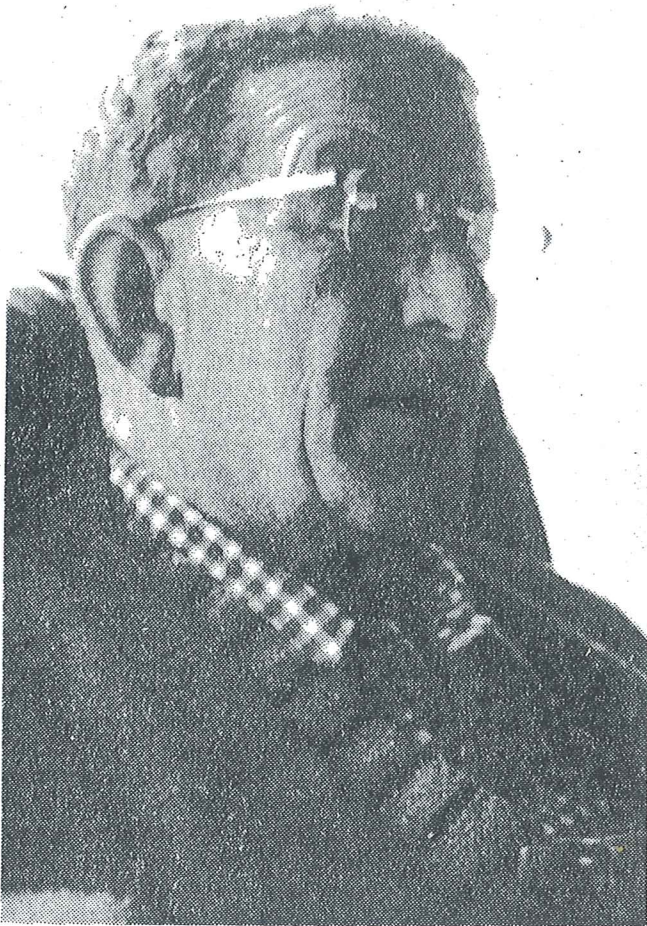
WILLIS — Is it correct that an eyewitness testified that he saw Clay Shaw and David Ferrie together at a local airport one day when he took his son there for flight instruction. Which would be same airport where Ferrie was active in the Civil Air Patrol.

WEISBERG — Yes, that was an eye-witness who didn't show up until the very end of the presentation of the state's case . . . the prosecution case.

WILLIS — What about the death of David Ferrie?

WEISBERG — I have no personal knowledge of that . . .

I can give you two accounts. Garrison says that Ferrie could have committed suicide by taking Preludin, which is for thyroid problems. Ferrie used to get all sorts of medicines without a doctor's prescription. Ferrie had a history of weak blood vessels and one at the base of his skull ruptured. Garrison thinks that the Preludin could have caused that. I have no way of knowing.



"I would say that John Kennedy was killed as a result of a conspiracy in which Oswald may not have fired a shot . . ."

WILLIS — What about Perry Russo?

WEISBERG — I think that he is a non-stop liar. I tried to interest Garrison in that, and I couldn't.

WILLIS — Russo was quite obviously Garrison's "key witness," and he didn't have much of a case against Shaw without this testimony . . . is that correct?

WEISBERG — Right. He could have had other things, but he didn't. But I think that the basic weakness with Garrison's case, was that Shaw was not guilty of the charge. On the other hand, I think that when Garrison had his own "Rush to Judgment," (referring to a book by Mark Lane), and charged Shaw with the perjury on issues that had been adjudicated. He made a serious mistake. On the other hand, I

think Shaw did commit perjury in two areas where Garrison didn't charge him. And I find myself wondering why Shaw would have committed perjury. They had to do with his alibi. There was a well-known allegation made by a number of people that they had seen Shaw and Oswald together at Clinton, Louisiana during the time of a voter registration campaign.

WILLIS — That was where they were identified in a limousine?

WEISBERG — Yes.

WILLIS — There were several eye-witness testimonies to that weren't there?

WEISBERG — They (the witnesses) were the most unlikely people, and they were very impressive people. They were credible people. I don't know what the truth of it is, but those were the kind of



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people that if I were on a jury, I would believe as close to completely as possible.

WILLIS — I know that you are not an assassination "theorist," but has your research and the manuscripts you've obtained, borne out any one assassination theory, more than another?

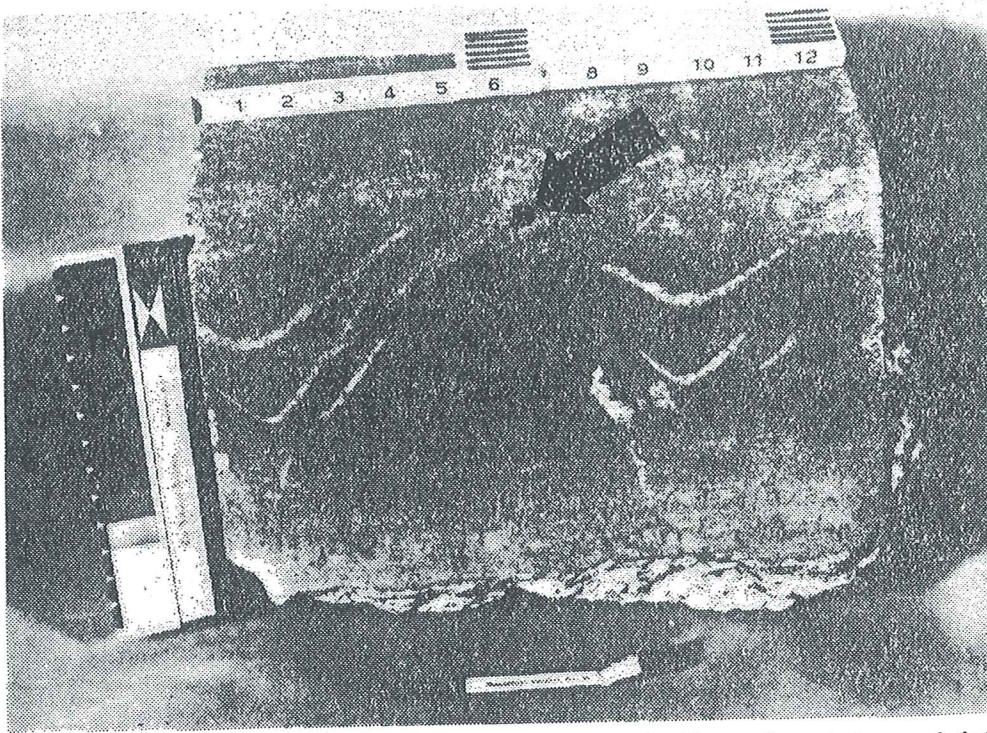
WEISBERG — No. There is no basis on which they can, and I am not a conspiracy theorist. I regard conspiracy as a question of legal fact . . . conspiracy under the law, is the combination to do wrong, plus an overt step to get it out of the area of free speech. If the crime, and this applies to both cases, was beyond the capacity of any one person, on that basis alone, you have proof of a conspiracy. This does not tell you who the conspirators were. The only

way in which you can decide for yourself on a reasonable basis, who the conspirators were, or may have been, is to work backward from the corpus delicti evidence. That is, from what we know to be with some certainty, basic facts of the case in the John Ken-

nedy assassination. This is such things as the medical and ballistics evidence.

WILLIS — You filed suit for the spectographic evidence from ballistics analysis, didn't you?

WEISBERG — That's the case that turned the law around. That's the case that is before the Court of Appeals now. Identified as #230170, it's the first case filed anywhere under the Amendment Act, and there it is #75226.



QUESTIONS RAISED — Following the shooting of JFK, the Warren Commission concluded that only three shots were fired, and that they came from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. However, evidence which should have been vital to the Commission's conclusion was either suppressed or largely ignored. Pictured above is a section of the curb from the street on which the President was killed. It bears the indentation of a bullet, or bullet fragment. A fragment of that bullet struck a bystander, James Tague, in the face. In his second book, "Whitewash II," Harold Weisberg discloses evidence of a second apparent bullet mark on the sidewalk. The FBI investigated and concluded, "... it could not have come from the direction of the window" of the Book Depository. How many shots were fired on November 22, 1963? From where were they fired—and most importantly, who fired them?

WILLIS — On November 9, 1963, the intelligence division of the Miami Police Department taped a conversation between a man identified as Joseph A. Milteer, who as an organizer for the "States Rights Party," a "right-wing" organization. Milteer conversed with an FBI informant. The tape recording revealed the discussion of plans to assassinate President Kennedy. Since the introduction of this document in your book "Oswald in New Orleans," have you discovered any additional evidence relating to what is now referred to as the "Milteer Documents?"

WEISBERG — Yes and no ... the FBI is "stone-walling" me on that, so a friend of mine, and a writer in Miami, Dan Christianson, filed a separate report, and he got a stack of records about four, five, six inches high. I did obtain that withheld page of CD-1347, and it says exactly what I said it says in my book "Frame-up." It relates to the meaning of the plan and the attack on the 16th Street Church (a racially volatile incident that occurred in Birmingham, Alabama).

(In the) Hoch, Stetler, and Peter Dale Scott Anthology, I gave my permission for them to use my work without paying attention to what they were using. When I saw that they were taking that, I asked that it be withdrawn for two different reasons.

First, it is anything but a fair sample of my work; and second of all, I knew very well that they were not using it in context. My point was, how in the world can we have this kind of information and not have it investigated ... and I didn't go any further than that. The man, Milteer, was a member of Stoner's party and was also interested in starting a competitive party.

WILLIS — Was the direct threat revealed by the "Milteer Documents," ignored, or did the authorities assume that, if the assassination attempt did take place, it would do so in Miami only?

WEISBERG — It was not ignored, and it was ignored. It was not ignored in that it is the factor, or one of the factors, that caused the cancellation of the President's motorcade in Miami, on I think, November 19 (when he appeared before

the Inter-American Press Association Convention.) It was ignored by the FBI and the Secret Service, and the Warren Commission to the degree that the Warren Commission was never given either a copy of the tape or a transcript of it—both of which were given to both the FBI and the Secret Service by the Miami Police. I print the transcript in "Frame-up," my book on the King assassination. **WILLIS** — Is the transcript, as it appears in the book "The Assassinations—Dallas and Beyond," edited by Peter Dale Scott, Paul L. Hoch, and Russell Stetler (Vintage Books, 1976) complete in text? **WEISBERG** — No.

WILLIS — Was the transcript complete when you submitted it to them?

WEISBERG — It was complete in so far as the Miami Police made it available—that is mostly, but not entirely, complete. As I remember it, it was about six pages.

WILLIS — The conversation in the transcript is very hard to follow.

WEISBERG — Yes, it is hard to follow. They jumped around, in part, because Somerset, the

FBI informer, who was then working for the Miami authorities, was trying to direct it the way he wanted it to go. The tape does not include what, I'm told, was the purposes of arranging for their conversation to be taped. That is, that Milteer was suspected of preparing for a racial incident during ... what was planned to be a peaceful demonstration on Flagler Street.

So you see my work differs from that of others, first, I'm not a conspiracy theorist; second, I'm doing exactly the kind of work I did professionally as a young man as a Senate investigator and as an Intelligence analyst. I deal with evidence, and my ways of attaining the evidence are not nearly as unorthodox as they seem to be.

It's just that they require more work than most people are willing to invest. For example, in these Freedom of Information cases, they take an enormous amount of work, because there is no case in which the FBI doesn't resist in every way they can. They are immune to almost anything. The question I've asked over and over again, is, who prosecutes the prosecutor?

The FBI's counsel is the Department of Justice, commonly the United States attorney in the jurisdiction. What's he going to prosecute—his client? Of course he's not. And who would dream of prosecuting the FBI?

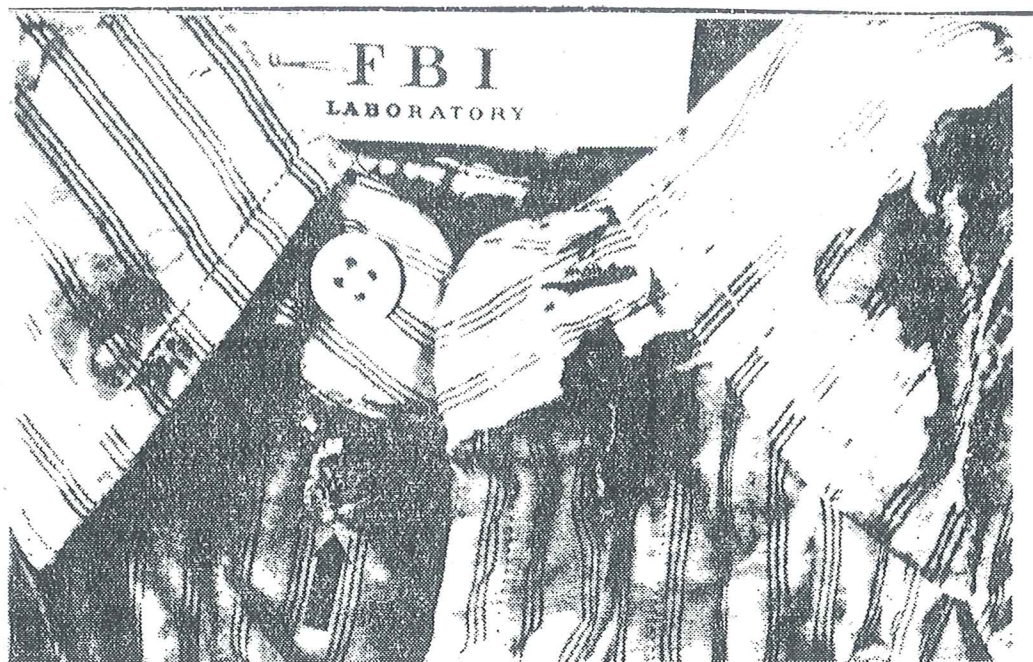
So they can get away with all kinds of things, including perjury, which is a not uncommon FBI practice. That's

what makes these cases so difficult and costly ... torturous.

WILLIS — Surely, in your own mind, from the evidence you have reviewed you have formulated some conjecture as to what elements were responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy.

WEISBERG — I would say that John Kennedy was killed as a result of a conspiracy in which Oswald may not have fired a shot—and that those who were parties to the conspiracy had to be in a position to either involve Oswald, or to have been able to have set Oswald up as a patsy.

WILLIS — Would it be a reasonable guess to assume that those persons who were responsible for "setting up"



CONCLUSIVE PROOF — Pictured above is an actual FBI photo of the shirt President John F. Kennedy was wearing when he was cut down by an assassin's bullet. The photo is used by Harold Weisberg in his book, "Post Mortem" to refute the Warren Commission's report that claims a hole under the button (see arrow) was caused by a bullet—as was the hole below the neckband on the right side of this photo. Weisberg notes that these are not "holes," but slits. The photo also shows that when the shirt is buttoned, the slits do not coincide, and on this added basis, could not have been made by a bullet. Weisberg concludes that the FBI and the Warren Commission both knew their representations were false, and that this damage to the shirt was done when the President's necktie was cut off by nurses under a doctor's supervision, during emergency treatment of JFK.

Oswald, could have been intelligence personnel, or persons with a previous intelligence background?

WEISBERG — I think that's a reasonable guess. I try to avoid these things, but I think that of all the possibilities, I would have to agree with you that you have one of the more likely ones.

WILLIS — There are a number of theorists who have pointed fingers at the CIA, the Mafia .

WEISBERG — I think it's impossible. I think it is totally impossible that the CIA, on an organizational top-level, was involved. I think it is totally impossible.

I think it is not impossible for free-lancers, who are not unknown in any intelligence agency, to have had an involvement, and to have considered it the height of patriotism. And the way that kind of thing would work out would be, and I don't mean to be making accusations and using illustrations, if the Vietnamese haunchos did the job, they would make it look like the Cubans did. The Cubans of the CIA.

If the Cubans of the CIA did it, they would tend to make it look like the Vietnamese did it.

This is a Byzantine world,

composed of people who, for the most part, were recruited on the basis of political preconceptions that were congenial to those who wanted them to work for them . . . almost exclusively it meant, those who are virtually pathologically anti-Soviet. And, people of this kind, could very well have considered the President a traitor . . . and been genuine in the belief.

WILLIS — Do you give any credibility at all to Fidel Castro's involvement?

WEISBERG — Totally impossible. Of all the impossibilities, that is perhaps the most completely impossible. And I'll tell you why. If you stop and think about the solution to the Cuban Missile Crisis, it wound up with John Kennedy guaranteeing the territorial integrity of Cuba. Do you think Castro would kill the only real defense he had?

The Russians can't defend Castro or Cuba under their mutual defense treaty. But if the United States ever decided to do something to Cuba, there would never be an opportunity for the Soviet Union to defend Cuba. So in realistic terms, Kennedy was the only real protection Fidel Castro had. There is no possibility that

Castro would have undertaken to eliminate his only insurance. Especially not when he knew that Lyndon Johnson would be the next man.

WILLIS — What about a possible Mafia connection to the assassination. Particularly through Johnny Roselli, a noted crime figure whose decomposed and dismembered body was found floating off of Miami in a 55-gallon drum on August 7, 1976. The conjecture of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, under the direction of Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., (a part-time resident of Deep Creek Lake) is that this gangland-style execution was carried out in revenge for Roselli having secretly informed the government that he believed some of his former associates had gone on to murder President Kennedy . . . possibly with the help of Castro? Do you suspect such a connection?

WEISBERG — It just doesn't exist. This isn't even good romanticizing. The number of plots are legion . . . the number of schemes to kill John Kennedy can't begin to be counted of those that are known. How many there were that were not known, we will

never be able to even guess.

There is no connection between a plot against Castro and the killing of Kennedy. This theory was launched by a former top Department of Justice character who leaked it originally to Drew Pearson, at a time when it could do what it succeeded in doing—confuse Garrison. There's no basis for it.

WILLIS — What about the Committee to Investigate Assassinations' reports that Sam Giancana, the reputed Chicago Mafia leader whose death (he was found shot to death in his home on June 19, 1975) may have been due to some connection with the assassination of Kennedy. They also stated that he was the coordinator of the anti-Castro CIA-Mafia assassination conspiracies. Do you see his death as being attributed to any visible connection with the Kennedy assassination?

WEISBERG — Both of them (Giancana and Roselli) had already talked. I think they were killed simply because they talked—not because of what they said. Certainly not because of what they said about the John Kennedy assassination. It was not material to anything. But, the Mafia does not permit talking.

Giancana had been before the Grand Jury; I'm not certain, but I think Roselli had been. And don't forget they had talked to their lawyer who "leaked." There was no need for them to tell their lawyer that . . . they weren't under such charges.

But why would the Mafia want to kill John Kennedy? To get at Bobby (Kennedy, who as U.S. Attorney General, launched a major crack-down on organized crime)? The way you get at Bobby, is by killing Bobby.

WILLIS — So it was also thought that the Mafia had

planned attempts on the life of Robert Kennedy. Is this true?

WEISBERG — Well, you can hear all kinds of things—especially if you read the works of theorists. I know of no factual basis to credit any of these things.

The Mafia is one of the country's most successful industries. Why in the world would they jeopardize anything they have? It doesn't make a

damn bit of difference who is President . . . they still got the same good thing going for them.

Now there can be a variation in degree of the intensity of prosecutions. But that's a normal business risk for them. In any event, killing John Kennedy had no effect on that, one way or the other.

WILLIS — Then there are those who theorize about the assassination involving the oil people in Texas; the loss of gambling interests in Cuba by organized crime; and the retaliation of the CIA for the lack of air support during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

WEISBERG — Yes. They're all theories. And for some of them, you can make up a case. I don't really think that you can make out a case that a rational oil millionaire would do this because he expected John Kennedy to be responsible for the reduction of their very unfair, and unjust depletion allowance.

For example—why, if it was fair for them, why wouldn't it be fair for coal operators? Every ton of coal they take out of the ground is that much of a depletion. I don't think it's reasonable.

But where you run into a problem is where you deal with people who don't have to be reasonable. Still, it has to be someone in the position, either to have used Oswald, or to have set him up. And I don't know of any oil man who fits that pre-requisite.

WILLIS — What about Oswald's military background—particularly as a radar operator at the Atsugi Naval Station in Japan? What is known about his functions as a radar operator there?

WEISBERG — Oswald was a radar operator, but he was not a "normal" radar operator. Oswald had at least a Secret security clearance . . . I am sure, at least a Top Secret clearance . . . and I am also sure a Crypto clearance. When I learned of that, I didn't know there was such a thing as Crypto clearance. I learned about it on a talk show in December, 1966, when a man who represented himself as a former associate of Oswald's in the Marines.

When I checked out other parts of that man's story,

every bit checked. So I think the man was telling the truth. I found confirmation buried in the Warren Commission records that he (Oswald) was at least of Secret clearance—and believe it or not, there's no record of this in any of Oswald's military records . . . there's only a record of his having a Confidential clearance. In addition to that, the records of his advanced training at Keesler Field (Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi) had disappeared . . . which appears to me as being rather strange.

WILLIS — You've referred to "Crypto" clearance . . . what is that?

WEISBERG — . . . Crypto has to do with your need to have clearance for cryptographic handling (knowledge of specialized systems for translating codes) . . . I don't believe that in itself it is a separate kind of clearance. I think that other clearances are pre-requisite to it. I have since, in my own way, and in a way I'm not prepared to go public with, obtained official confirmation that Oswald . . . in fact, did have Top Secret clearance.

WILLIS — Did Oswald actually possess a working knowledge of the U-2 Reconnaissance planes and their surveillance flights over the Soviet Union as conjectured by some theorists?

WEISBERG — I have no reason to believe he did—this is all conjecture. His work had to do with height-seeking radar. Oswald was one of the five men in his unit who had the higher clearance and the knowledge of this, then, to a degree unknown, radar capability. It turned out later that it was not unknown and had been published prior to the time of Oswald's defect . . . so-called defection.

WILLIS — Taking into consideration, among other things, Oswald's ability to fluently speak Russian, wouldn't you say he had a relatively high Intelligence Quotient?

WEISBERG — That's hard to evaluate, because I think he was a strange person. I think he was of higher than average intelligence, but I wouldn't know how to evaluate this in the terms of an IQ rating . . . he clearly was of superior intelligence.

WILLIS — It is my understanding that Oswald's Russian wife, Marina, whom he met and married while in Russia, was the niece of a Russian KGB colonel. Some say the colonel was an intelligence agent. Is this true, or is it something that was used only as sensationalism by critics and theorists?

WEISBERG — . . . First of all, you have to understand what the KGB is. The KGB is the Russian Ministry of Interior. One of its functions is intelligence, but it has other functions. Marina's uncle was a colonel in the KGB in Minsk. I have no reason to believe that he had an intelligence function. **WILLIS** — There is quite a bit of emphasis placed on Oswald's ability to obtain a passport after 24 hours of his application . . . is this true?

WEISBERG — It is. I reprint the proof in facsimile in my first book. (This is true,) even though there would have been, for three different reasons, a look-out card filed against him in the State Department, if he applied for a passport again. Within 24 hours of his application for a passport in New Orleans, he had it.

WILLIS — Was it under the name of Lee Harvey Oswald?

WEISBERG — Correct.

WILLIS — Was it standard procedure that enabled Oswald

to obtain his passport so quickly.

WEISBERG — Well, other people who applied at the same time, didn't (receive their passports within 24 hours). It took them a lot longer.

WILLIS — Did Oswald defect to Russia?

WEISBERG — First of all, I think you should put "defect" in quotes, because when it came time to actually . . . renouncing his American citizenship, he did not do it. So there's a real question as to whether or not it was a defection. That is one of the reasons, however, that there should have been a "flag" to at least delay his getting a passport.

Now in those days, passports were being denied right and left for people who had much less ostensible connections with the Soviet Union. That made his getting a passport, in itself, unusual.

Then he had to borrow

money . . . to come back to the United States. The State Department wasn't looking to invest in his return again. It was quite unusual in all respects.

WILLIS — Why was Oswald not prosecuted upon his return to this country, for divulging military secrets pertaining to our radar operations?

WEISBERG — I think that's a good question. I raised that question in my first book. In fact, they (the U. S. Government and Oswald) made a deal. He insisted he would not come back until they guaranteed he would not be prosecuted. And he wasn't.

WILLIS — And the U. S. made all of those concessions simply because they wanted him back that badly?

WEISBERG — I think they wanted him back, and the Russians wanted to get rid of

him for reasons we have to conjecture . . . for one reason, the Russians suspected he was an American "sleeper" agent.

For another reason, even if he didn't serve an American intelligence agency (and the State Department knew damn well nobody would tell them the truth), he presented a real problem to the U. S. in Russia. They wanted to get him back.

What Oswald should have been prosecuted for had nothing to do with giving away military secrets. First, it had to be proven that they were secrets. Second, it had to be proven that they had been given away, and I don't think that either one of these things could have met the reasonable doubt standard of American justice.

However, he did get a fraudulent discharge, and on that there was an open and shut case.

WILLIS — That was a hardship discharge, was it not?

WEISBERG — Sure. Three days later he was on his way to Russia.

WILLIS — Is that considered a short period of time for a discharge or be processed?

WEISBERG — Well no, it took about six weeks for the discharge to come through. But he spent three days after he reached his mother, panhandled \$25 for her, and was off.

WILLIS — Many theorists seem to place a high regard on discrepancies contained in

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mistake of giving it (the information) to Garrison and he gave it to everybody . . . it's been embroidered upon no end. TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

for all the mythologies that have been woven around that because that work was originally done for me by a woman in Missouri named Shirley Orr. I made the Oswald's military records pertaining to his height and weight. **WEISBERG** — I don't think that they're that abnormal. I have a share of responsibility